

**Senate Bill #438
Testimony of David Prostko
September 2nd, 2015**

Thank you Chairman and the senate committee for this opportunity.

My comments are as a customer of Solar Winds but more so as a registered voter,...kind of a minority at these hearings. While we have heard from groups representing both sides, I also hope to serve as a voice of citizens and voters of the state of Michigan whether they have solar or not.

...I invested in solar with all good intentions of clean energy development and the right to produce some of my own energy. I invested in a 20kw ground mount system in which I believe is one of the largest residential installs in the state. Also have a geothermal system

I invested in solar to help myself and the state power needs. This was after a winter storm a few years ago. We were without power for 10 day in subzero temperatures where I had to protect my home with heaters and a generator. I did not qualify for credit from the power company for my inconveniences.

Hence, I installed a 20kwh system with battery back up. Today I feed considerable amounts for energy back to the grid and assist the state and our power companies with renewable energy generation. And Like a gentlemen that spoke two weeks ago, I also invested in solar to serve as a way to conserve my energy expenses in retirement.

I believe that bill senate 438.....will hinder the individual opportunity to proactively produce energy, will be a negative impact to local business and slow new technology growth in our state. I also see it as a restriction on a personal freedom and privilege as well to produce my own power and contribute to clean energy efforts with the power companies. It has a negative impact to residents that have solar by defusing their investment and makes them beholden to the power company.

this bill penalizes my contribution of energy that I feed back to the grid as being at wholesale with a requirement to purchase at retailNot only do I see this as a personal negative and insulting financially, it will negatively impact residential and business solar investments....past and future,...taking us backwards.

Evident by the big banners parked outside the past two weeks in reserved parking spaces and countless millions spent by DTE on commercials to to convince consumer trust,...there is no doubt that this legislation is driven by our states power companies. While the representative from DTE talked about the need to cover fixed costs I think the focus should be on their cost management. While the utilities get incentives,...We are talking about subsidies on only 1800 solar installs today. And while this number may be growing, it is a small percentage to the total state and what is being subsidized to drive in new technology and jobs to Michigan.

As stated by a previous industry speaker, those with solar are not contributing to the fixed cost of the grid. This is not completely accurate as I have first hand experience,...where currently this past month I used 874 kWh and generated more than 2 times that amount back to the grid. Contrary to his statements, while I generated a credit I still paid a bill \$29.30 for various fees and taxes. I question if we have transparency to what the supposed cost impact is to a solar install to the power companies fixed costs

The industry says it is in support of solar but only on its terms and uses its leverage of our reliance on the grid.

I believe that there has to be a better way for solar growth and big energy to work on a mutually beneficial platform versus senate bill 438. This comes down to sound leadership by our elected officials to set forth legislation that is in the best interest of the state and I encourage our state leadership to lead boldly in regards to renewable energy interest not just for today but the future.

Thank you for listening.
David Prostko